

Lesson Name : 39

Lesson Title : Rapunzel

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read "[Rapunzel](#)."

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes about new vocabulary and definitions that you may need to reference later.



Reading Strategies and Evaluating Argument

Grimm's' fairytales are a collection of folktales collected by the Grimm brothers. While the Grimm brothers translated and compiled the folktales, they did not author them. As you prepare to read "Rapunzel," use **reading strategies** to check and monitor your reading comprehension. One **reading strategy** is to stop after reading several paragraphs and question yourself about what you just read. Another **strategy** would be to evaluate the author's **argument**. Of what is the author attempting to convince you with this story? Do you agree or disagree with the **arguments** made? Are the **arguments** made in the story logical, meaning they make sense, or illogical, meaning they don't make sense?

Cause and Effect

Cause and effect stories tell why something happens. The reasons for something are the **cause**. The results are the **effect**. When reading a folktale, understanding the nature of **cause and effect** writing will help you to understand the main ideas. **Cause and effect** writing give reasons and explanations for events, conditions, or behavior. Because this happened (**cause**) this action followed (**effect**). You may find it helpful to create a cause and effect timeline as you read. What are the **causes** and what are the **effects** in "Rapunzel?" Literature is often affected by the historical time period it was written. What cultural elements beliefs are reflected in the story?

Cause and effect relationships run throughout this fairytale and are directly related to the lesson or moral of the story. The pregnant woman gives into her desire for rapunzel in her garden and promises the witch her child (**cause**). The witch raises and protects the child in a selfish but loving way (**cause**). The child is rescued and cursed, but then saved by the virtue of true love (**effect**). The selfish characters in the story end up with nothing and the righteous end up happy.

Elements of Folktales

A fairytale is a type of **folktale**, a literary form that includes many types of stories. Legends and traditions, fairy tales, animal tales, fables, and myths can all be classified as **folktales**. Most **folktales** include a lesson or a moral, but all **folktales** attempt to describe or define a phenomenon that occurs in that culture. “Rapunzel” is a fairytale that teaches the danger of being greedy for material things, of overprotecting a child and of disobeying a parent. The argument made through this fairytale is that you may have anything you want, but it comes at a price. Often the higher the price, the more you regret it. The witch’s motivation to keep the beauty of Rapunzel all to herself is also selfish and does not work out as she plans. Do you agree that selfish wants and desires will ultimately cause a personal downfall?

Similes

A **simile** is a comparison of two seemingly unlike things using the words such as *like* or *as*. **Similes** are used to describe and create imagery in literary works. For example, *The journey was as long as the Mississippi river*. The journey and the Mississippi have little in common, but by making this comparison, the reader understands the journey was extremely long.

Synonyms and Epithets

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. For example *proud*, *vain* and *conceited* are all **synonyms**. Similar to a **synonym** is an **epithets**, a renaming of a person, place, or thing. **Epithets** are sometimes attached to a person’s name or appear in place of their name, as what might be described as a glorified nickname. Many examples of **epithets** are found in historical figures. For example, *Alexander the Great*, *Richard the Lionhearted*, and *Joan of Arc*.

Idioms

Idioms are phrases or clauses that mean something as a whole, but that meaning cannot be determined by defining the individual words. Often **idioms** have a meaning other than what the words literally mean. For example, *make a mountain out of a molehill* means to make a small thing a big deal. If you defined each word individually, it would mean to enlarge a mole’s hill to the size of a mountain.



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Vocabulary

Understanding the words used in a story can aid your understanding of the story. Here are some words from the classic fairytale “Rapunzel”:

1. **avail** – verb – help or benefit
2. **sorceress** – noun – a woman who practices sorcery; witch
3. **ails** – verb – troubles or afflicts one in mind or body
4. **rapunzel** – noun – radishes or lamb's lettuce
5. **abated** – verb – became less intense or widespread